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To His Excellency *Abel 1864*
 Senior Don Rufino de Elizalde.
 Consulate General of the Argentine Republic.

Confidential

1. George Street,

Manston House.

S.C.

23 Feb 1864.

My dear Excellency,

My last was dated the 8th instant. Yesterday the mail from Buenos Ayres of the 11th of January arrived but it did not bring me any Government despatches and I therefore do not write officially by this opportunity.

Since my last Mr. Hopkins has introduced his "Buenos Ayres Bonded Wharf and River Transit Company" of which I forward you a prospectus. He urged me strongly to become a Director but I am asked to do so now by almost every company and invariably refuse. I consented however to appear

as Director "Ex. Officio" his Agent
telling me that unless I did
so some of the gentlemen who
had consented to join the
Board would perhaps withdraw.
At the same time I intimated
that I should not in consideration
for this step accept either
directly or indirectly any
pecuniary interest in the
Stock of the Company but on
the contrary should most
probably invest £500 or £1000
of my own money in it, so
that if the enterprise should
not ultimately prove
successful it will be out
of the power of any one to say
that I have induced them to
make an investment and
incur a risk in which I did
not myself participate.

I am sure that as a private
friend you will concur in the
propriety of the course I have
pursued and I trust it will also
meet your Official approval.

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One drawback against the
success of the scheme has been the
great, and, as I believe, unmerited
prejudice that appears to exist
in the minds of several of the
Buenos Ayres Merchants in
London against Mr Hopkins.
Another difficulty consists in
the opposition to it of Mr.
Crooke the concessionaire
of the San Fernando line.
Mr Crooke openly avows
great animosity to Mr Hopkins
and denounces the undertaking
as one that can never succeed.
This is a serious state of affairs
since although Mr Crooke's
representations on general
subjects might not have
much weight it is always
so easy for any one by
suggesting doubts to frighten
investors that in such a case
he can act with effect - more
especially as from his
connexion with the San
Fernando line he may be
supposed to be the person of
all others who should be

able to judge of the merits of the
Plan. Nevertheless in the face
of these adverse circumstances
I trust the required subscription
will be fully made up. The
Board of Direction is very
respectable. The Chairman and
Deputy Chairman are gentlemen
who have figured too much
in inferior Companies but they
are both persons of position and
talent - and the other members
of the Board are Merchants
of excellent standing and
who have hitherto not mixed
themselves up in the fray of
the multitude of Companies
recently introduced. The
Buenos Ayres Merchants in
London seem on the whole to
know little of the value of
the undertaking. Mr. Wheelwright
is the only person who has
spoken decidedly in its favour
so as to give me confidence in
it.

Mr. Wheelwright's Railway will
now it is said be positively
brought out next week - but all
the parties in it have been moving
slow. Very sincerely & faithfully, M. B. Sampson

Londres, Febrero 23/864.

El Sr. Sampson no habiendo
recibido despacho Oficial
por el Paquete de Puerto R. se
limita á escribir confidencialmente.
Dice que desde su ultima al
Sr. Hopkins ha introducido en
el mercado de Londres su fia
y que este Sr. insistió en que
fuese Director de dicha Compañia,
pero que igual proposición
le habido hecha por todas las
Compañias que se forman, y
que siempre ha rechazado.
Consecuente sin embargo, el cargo
de Director en Ohio, en vista
del buen éxito de la empresa,
y temiendo que parte de las personas
que forman la Comision se retiraran
si no lo hace. Dice que bajo
ningun pretexto aceptará indirecta
ni indirecta ninguna remuneración
por tale cargo, y que por lo
contrario piensa invertir de su
Capital 500 ó 1000 £ en la empresa,
para que sus amigos, en caso que
la empresa fracasase, no pudiesen
decir que no ha corrido las
mismas riesgos que ellas.
Espera que su modo de
proceder, en este negocio, no

solo recibirá la sancion del
amigo, sino que tambien tendrá
la aprobacion del Gobierno.

El escollo mayor que tiene
la empresa es la inmerecida
opinion desfavorable que todas
las comerciantes de P.^a byres en
Londres, tienen del Sr. Hopkins.

El Sr. Brokey a quien fue con-
cedido el banco de Fierro de Sr.
Fernando, se esfuerza abiertamente
muy desfavorablemente contra
el Sr. Hopkins, y dice que la
empresa no tendrá buen éxito.

Esto es serio - porque aun que
la opinion del Sr. Brokey
no tenga mucho valor en
negocios generales - en palabras
puede influir en el caso
presente - llevando la duda
en el espíritu de las personas
que quisieran tomar parte
en la empresa - con tanta
mas fuerza que como Director
del banco de Fierro de Sr.
Fernando, se supone tenga
mejor conocimiento que otras
del buen éxito del negocio.

A pesar de todo lo expuesto,
la opinion del Sr. Lampron
es que la suscripcion se
llenara. La Comision Directiva

esta compuesta de personas
muy respetables, de buen crédito
y que hasta ahora no han
tomado parte en las compañías
que se han formado reciente-
mente. Los comerciantes
de Londres en general parecen
estar poco al corriente del
valor de la empresa. La sola
persona que la apoya calorea-
mente es el Sr. Wheelwright.
El banco de Fisco de este Sr.
será positivamente introducido
en el mercado la semana que
viene pero todos sus represen-
tantes han obrado en este
asunto muy lentamente.

Desde que he escrito esta
carta hego el sentimiento
de anunciarle que las suscripciones
para la empresa del Sr. Hapling
son muy lentas.